

to set up Regional Super Computer Centres in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up such a unit in each district of Bihar; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said project is likely to be started?

➤ THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) There is no proposal to set up Regional Super Computer Centres in various parts of the country.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Bihar Industrial Development Corporation

5540. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

➤ (a) whether the Bihar Industrial Development Corporation has submitted some proposals for setting up industries with foreign collaboration and with the help of Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposals cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) No such proposal has been received in the recent past.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

FPS to Consumer Cooperatives

5541. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDEL-

WAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to give preference to the consumer cooperatives for setting up Fair Price Shops throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether the directions to all State Governments have also been given to adopt the said procedure;

(c) if so, whether the interest of consumers is proposed to be protected as a result of this step; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d). The administration of the Public Distribution System (PDS) is done by the State Government/UT Administrations. Decisions regarding opening and allotment of fair price shops are taken by them. The Central Government has advised the State Governments/UT Administrations to give preference to Cooperatives and Civil Supplies Corporations to open fair price shops particularly in rural areas. They have also been requested to take special care with regard to those areas, where private people (traders) are reluctant to run fair price shops or are not running them efficiently. There are about 3.78 lakhs fair price shops as on 31.3.91 of which about 22.5% are run by Cooperatives. Cooperative Institutions are meant to protect the interests of the people. Whenever malfunctioning of such institutions come to notice, remedial action is taken by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Stowing of Sand In Coalmines

5542. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: